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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

JORGE VARGAS on behalf of himself
and all other plaintiffs known and
unknown,

Plaintiff

v.

BAGEL COUNTRY, LLC

Defendant

08cv1331

Judge: Grady

Mag. Judge: Mason

JURY DEMAND

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES Plaintiff, JORGE VARGAS, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, by and through his attorney, JOHN W. BILLHORN, and for his Complaint against Defendant, BAGEL COUNTRY, LLC, states as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. This action is brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, *et seq.*, and the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 *et seq.*, the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS 105/1 *et seq.*, and the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS Section 115/1, *et seq.*

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. Jurisdiction arises under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207, the Portal-to-Portal Act, 29 U.S.C. §251 *et seq.*, and for the supplemental Illinois statutory claims, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367. Venue lies in the Northern District of Illinois in that Plaintiff is a resident of this district and Defendant is engaged in business in this district.

FILED

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MICHAEL W. DOBBINS
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

III. PARTIES

3. Defendant, BAGEL COUNTRY LLC, (hereinafter "Defendants") are engaged in the business of providing restaurant and food services. As such, Defendant's services qualify as an enterprise engaged in commerce as defined by the FLSA. During all relevant times, Defendant was acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the employee Plaintiff as well as the proposed class of employees and, therefore, were and is "employer" as defined under both the federal and state statutes relied upon herein.

4. Plaintiff, JORGE VARGAS, (hereinafter "the named Plaintiff") and all other Plaintiffs of the class, known and unknown (hereinafter referred to as "members of the Plaintiff Class") are either present or past hourly employees of Defendant performing food service type duties. As an employee performing duties for an enterprise engaged in commerce, the named Plaintiff and all Plaintiffs similarly situated also were engaged in commerce as defined by the FLSA.

IV. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

Fair Labor Standards Act

5. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §216(b), Count I of this action is maintained by the named Plaintiff as an opt-in representative action, for and on behalf of himself and other past and present hourly employees similarly situated, who have been or will in the future be damaged by Defendant's failure to comply with 29 U.S.C. §201 *et. seq.* and §251 *et. seq.* Count II alleges a willful violation of the FLSA and seeks an additional, third year of limitations. Count III seeks liquidated damages under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Section 260. Plaintiff seeks to send Notice to all similarly situated hourly employees who have been denied proper over time compensation, as required by 29 USC Section 216(b) and supporting case law.

Illinois Minimum Wage Law

6. Pursuant to the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS Section 105/1 et seq. Count IV of this action is brought by Plaintiff to recover unpaid back wages earned on or after the date three (3) years prior to the filing of this action.

Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act

7. Pursuant to Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS Section 115/1 et seq., Count V of this action is brought by Plaintiff to recover unpaid back wages earned on or after the date five (5) years prior to the filing of this action

V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS RELEVANT TO ALL COUNTS

8. The named Plaintiff, and all similarly situated members of the Plaintiff Class, were compensated as hourly employees for purposes of payroll compensation but during employment have been paid at a straight time rate for some or all hours over 40 per work week, and therefore denied their premium overtime rate of pay for those hours over 40 per work week.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

1-8. Paragraphs 1 through 8 are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as paragraphs 1 through 8 of this Count I.

9. Pursuant to Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201 *et. seq.*, and the Portal-to-Portal Act 29 U.S.C. §251 *et. seq.*, the named Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in any week during the two (2) years preceding the filing of this action.

10. Defendant has at all times relevant hereto failed and refused to pay compensation to its employees, including the named Plaintiff herein, at the rate of one and one-half times his regular hourly wage rate for hours worked over forty (40) in a work week, all as required by the F.L.S.A.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order as follows:

(a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation for the two (2) years preceding the filing of this Complaint, according to the applicable statute of limitations;

(b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the total amount of unpaid compensation;

(c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and,

(d) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT II

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

1-8 Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count I are realleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count II.

9. Defendant has, both in the past and presently, willfully failed to pay the named Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class for work weeks in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a rate equal to one and one-half times their regular rate of pay, despite the fact that Defendant knew, or should have known, of the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

10. Defendant continue a pattern of deliberate, voluntary, intentional, and willful violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

11. Pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, Plaintiff, and all other employees similarly situated, past or present, are entitled to compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for all the hours worked in excess of forty (40) in any given week in the three (3) years preceding the filing of this complaint.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully requests this Court to enter an order as follows:

(a) awarding back pay equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation for one (1) additional year, totaling three (3) years preceding the filing of this Complaint;

(b) awarding prejudgment interest with respect to the amount of unpaid compensation;

(c) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees and Court costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

(d) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT III

LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

1-8. Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count III.

9. In denying the named Plaintiff and members of the Plaintiff Class compensation at a rate of one and one-half their hourly rate of pay for hours worked over forty (40) in a workweek, Defendant's acts were not based upon good faith or reasonable grounds.

11. The named Plaintiff and all other past and present employees similarly situated, known and unknown, are entitled to liquidated damages equal to the amount of unpaid overtime compensation, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §260.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiffs similarly situated, known and unknown, respectfully request this Court to enter an order as follows:

(a) awarding liquidated damages equal to the amount of all unpaid compensation;

(b) awarding Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendants' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

(c) for such additional relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT IV

SUPPLEMENTAL STATE LAW CLAIM

VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS MINIMUM WAGE LAW

1-8. Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 8 of this Count IV.

9. The Illinois Minimum Wage Law provides one and one half times their regular rate of pay must be paid to employees for work performed in excess of 40 hours in a workweek.

10. Defendant's failure to pay the overtime wages as described has been willful and/or in bad faith.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff requests this Court to enter an Order:

(a) declaring and decreeing Defendant's compensation practices as described herein, and such other violations which may come to light during the prosecution of this matter, in violation of the provisions of the Illinois Minimum Wage Law;

(b) awarding an amount of damages, to be shown by the evidence, to which Plaintiff and other members of the Plaintiff Class are entitled;

Plaintiff further requests that:

(c) this Court retain jurisdiction of the case until such time as it is assured that Defendant has remedied the compensation policies and practices complained of herein and are determined to be in full compliance with the law;

(d) this Court order Defendants' to pay to Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as provided by statute;

(e) this Court award whatever additional relief it deems just and appropriate under the circumstances.

COUNT V

SUPPLEMENTAL STATE LAW CLAIM

VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION ACT

1-8. Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count I are re-alleged and incorporated as though set forth fully herein as Paragraphs 1 through 8 of this Count V.

9. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 2, defines wages as "any compensation owed to an employee by an employer pursuant to an employment contract or agreement between the 2 parties, . . .". Payment to separated employees is

termed "final compensation" and defined as "wages, salaries, earned commissions, earned bonuses . . . and any other compensation owed the employee by the employer pursuant to an employment contract or agreement between the two parties".

10. As part of the employment agreement between the parties herein, Defendant agreed they would pay compensation in compliance with state and federal regulations and law.

11. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 4 provides that "[A]ll wages earned by any employee during a semi-monthly or bi-weekly pay period shall be paid to such employee not later than 13 days after the end of the pay period in which such wages were earned". Plaintiff herein, and other absent Plaintiffs, have been denied payment of rightful overtime wages for varying amounts of time in excess of 13 days from the time the overtime pay was earned.

12. The Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, Section 5, provides that "[E]very employer shall pay the final compensation of separated employees in full, at the time of separation, if possible, but in no case later than the next regularly scheduled payday for such employee. Plaintiff herein has been denied payment of his rightful overtime wages for varying amounts of time in excess of the next scheduled pay day after their separation.

13. Defendant's acts as complained of herein and described above, namely the continuing refusal and failure to pay the earned overtime wages to Plaintiff and the Plaintiff class, constitutes a violation of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act.

WHEREFORE, the named Plaintiff requests this Court to enter an Order:

(a) declaring and decreeing Defendant's compensation practices as described herein, and such other violations which may come to light during the prosecution of this matter, in violation of the provisions of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act;

(b) awarding an amount of damages, to be shown by the evidence, to which Plaintiff and other members of the Plaintiff Class are entitled;

(c) this Court retain jurisdiction of the case until such time as it is assured that Defendant has remedied the compensation policies and practices complained of herein and are determined to be in full compliance with the law;

Plaintiff further requests that:

(d) this Court order Defendant to pay to Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as provided by statute;

(e) is Court award whatever additional relief it deems just and appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

Electronically Filed 03/05/2008

s/ John W. Billhorn

John W. Billhorn, attorney for
Plaintiff, and all other Plaintiffs similarly
situated, known or unknown.

BILLHORN LAW FIRM
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Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 464-1450

**BILLHORN
LAW
FIRM**

**CONSENTIMIENTO PARA
SER PARTE DE LA DEMANDA**

Entrando en este acuerdo el día 5th de October del 2007, entre JORGE VARGAS (Cliente) y John W. Billhorn, (Abogado), Por medio de la presente autorizo y comprometo a Billhorn Law Firm de proseguir los sueldos atrasados y otros derechos en contra de BAGEL COUNTRY LLC AND DR. SCHKOPP, individually. Yo el abajo firmante, JORGE VARGAS, Por medio de la presente doy mi consentimiento para ser parte de la demanda.

Jorge Vargas

FIRMA DEL CLIENTE

**CONSENT TO BE PARTY
PLAINTIFF**

This agreement, entered into on this day 5th of October, 2007, between JORGE VARGAS (Client) and John W. Billhorn, (Attorney), hereby authorizes and engages the Billhorn Law Firm to pursue back wages and other relief against BAGEL COUNTRY LLC AND DR. SCHKOPP, individually, and by the signature below, JORGE VARGAS, hereby consents to be a party Plaintiff in said law suit.

CLIENT'S SIGNATURE